

been made functional, they get more excited. Please share some more information...(Interruptions)

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : We respect your sentiments. It is quite possible that the information furnished by the Department may be wrong...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Not a single telephone is functioning properly in rural areas...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHELAI SINGH : When our telephones continue to remain out of order in villages, one can well imagine the plight of common man...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I would like to thank Shri Brij Bhushan for having asked his question. However there does not seem to be any scope for putting even a single supplementary in view of the atmosphere prevalent here. Hence I leave this matter to be taken up during half an hour discussion.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : I would like to give an assurance...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now nothing is being heard in this din. Please leave it.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. This is not good.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this matter should be taken up under Rule 193 as Half-an-hour discussion will not suffice. A short duration discussion should be held on it.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am sorry gentlemen, I have already said that Half-an-hour discussion will be allowed on this. Somebody may give a notice to that effect. There shall be no discussion on this point now.

Railway Projects

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*86. LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI
TRIPATHI :

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned some new railway projects during the last 6 months;

(b) if so, the location-wise details thereof; and

(c) the estimated investment involved in each of these projects so far?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

Statement

(b) and (c) The projects which have been sanctioned by the Government (approved by CCEA)/sanctioned by Parliament during the last 6 months with their location and cost are as under :-

S.No.	Name of Project	State	Cost (Rs. in cr.)	Date of approval by CCEA
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Construction of 3rd line between Bilaspur and Urkura.	MP	151.53	approved by CCEA on 19.9.96
2.	Doubling of Titalagarh-Langigarh Rd.	Orissa	66.61	-do-
3.	Electrification of Bhubaneswer-Vishakhapatnam	Orissa	292.22	-do-
4.	Electification of Udhna-Jalgaon	Gujarat/ Maharashtra	124.39	-do-
5.	Conversion of Ajmer-Chittaurgarh-Udaipur.	Rajasthan	262.00	-do-
6.	Sakri-Hassanpur	Bihar		approved by CCEA on 25.9.96
7.	New line between Khagaria and Kusheswarthan	Bihar	78.22	approved by CCEA on 21.2.97
8.	New line between Bangalore-Hassan-Shravanbelagola	Karnataka	179.18	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
9.	New line from Harmuti to Itanagar	Arunachal Pradesh	155.29	approved by CCEA on 21.2.97
10.	New line from Hubli to Ankola	Karnataka	483.15	-do-
11.	Gauge Conversion of Ranchi-Lohardanga with extension to Tori.	Bihar	137.6	-do-
12.	Gauge Conversion of Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat-Katangi	Madhya Pradesh	386.3	-do-
13.	New line from Ahmednagar to Parli Vaijanath via Beed.	Maharashtra	353.00	-do-
14.	New line from Dausa to Gangapur City.	Rajasthan	152.00	-do-
15.	Gauge Conversion of Guntakal-Haspet to provide doubling	Karnataka/ Andhra Pradesh	105.77	-do-
16.	Third line Sonua and Manoharpur	Bihar	183.07	-do-
17.*	Gauge Conversion of Mathura-Kasganj and Kasganj-Bareilly	Uttar Pradesh	396.00	-do-

* This work is included in the budget 97-98 and will be taken up after the budget is passed by Parliament.

The following projects costing over Rs. 10 crs. each have been sanctioned by the Minister for Railways and have been approved by Parliament in the Supplementary Budget 96-97.

1.	Katpadi-Vaniyambadi-Automatic block and 3rd line between Vaniyambadi-Jolarpettai	Tamil Nadu	47.00
2.	Arakkonam-Marudhalam-Walajah Road-Katpadi-Automatic block signalling with third line between Marudhalam-Walajah Road.	Tamil Nadu	22.97
3.	Manmad-Igatpuri-Installation of optic fibre cable system	Maharashtra	11.19
4.	Hubli-construction of Diesel locoshed for 50 locos	Karnataka	15.26
5.	Hubli-wagon manufacturing facilities	-do-	15.00

LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, No mention has been made in the list submitted by the Ministry about any new railway lines in Uttar Pradesh. In the Budget also nothing has been said on this account. Gauge conversion of any line increases its capacity, revenue receipts and naturally decreases the burden of railways. The gauge conversion of Lucknow-Barouni line in the North-East Railways increased the goods carrying capacity of this track by 30 percent and passenger traffic capacity by 25 percent. This line goes upto Assam and it passes through the states of Uttar Pradesh, Northern Bihar and Northern Bengal. This is a very old line. This conversion is likely to increase the capacity of other lines and decrease the burden thereof as well. Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state as to whether the Government propose to undertake the doubling work of Lucknow-Barouni line? If so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has been only

asked in this question that how many projects have been approved by the Government during last six months. In reply to this question I have told that such and such railway lines have been given approval. As far as the information in respect of the question being asked by the hon'ble member is concerned, we will collect the same and let him know about that. Yesterday, many of our colleagues particularly Shri Sanat Mehta were looking very much agitated. The approval which is given...*(Interruptions)* O.K. all the people of entire Gujarat and Kerala also ...*(Interruptions)* I do not want to name anyone. My question is in respect of approval. There are two kinds of approval...*(Interruptions)* At least, now listen to me, please. After question hour it will meaningless to discuss this thing. Yesterday also, I was going to give reply ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Only one minute is left. He will not be able to complete his reply within this little time. At least, you would like to listen to his reply. You may please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Please, listen to my reply. A sum of Rs. 396 crores has been sanctioned during the last six months for gauge conversion of Mathura-Kasganj and Kasganj-Bareilly railway lines. There are two kinds of approval in this respect; one is parliamentary approval and another is cabinet's approval.

12.00 hrs.

So far as the matter pertaining to Surendranagar and Bhavanagar of Gujarat, which our colleagues were raising yesterday, is concerned I would like to let you know that it has got the parliamentary approval and is likely to get the Cabinet's approval within a day or two. As far as money is concerned, expenditure of one or two lakhs of Rupees does not matter because when the project is cleared by the Parliament, it becomes the baby of the ministry and whatever amount does it require for its implementation, it will always be spent thereon. This much we want to assure you and this is what I was trying to let you know yesterday.

Likewise, Karoor and Selam projects have also been cleared by the Parliament but these are pending before the Cabinet. These are also likely to get Cabinet's approval within a day or two and whatever amount it requires, we will give it. This is what I was trying to tell you yesterday but you people were not ready to listen...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may ask second supplementary.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : My question was not related to this only. What I meant to say was that this is a very old line and its gauge conversion has increased the revenue receipts of railways substantially, but at the same time traffic congestion has also increased many folds in the areas through which it passes. It requires your immediate attention. I want to know as to whether you would think over this problem and find a way out? This can be told to us later also.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Yes, we will think over it. The policies of the Government are directed to the welfare of backward class people and development of backward areas. Uttar Pradesh is also one of the backward states. Whenever any project survey is completed, it will be submitted before the Planning Commission, from where it would be referred to the Expanded Board. Thereafter we will take it up. But your question pertained to the period of last six months. We will certainly take your new demand under our consideration.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Persons killed/injured at Unmanned Level Crossings

*83. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons killed/injured at the unmanned level crossings during the last three years; and

(b) the concrete steps taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The number of persons killed/injured in accidents at unmanned level crossings during the last three years is as under :

Year	No. of persons killed	No. of persons injured
1993-94	146	273
1994-95	147	115
1995-96	117	162

(b) Accidents at unmanned level crossings occur due to the negligence of road users who cross the level crossing without observing the precautions stipulated in Section 131 of the Motor Vehicles Act.

Some of the steps taken by the Railways to prevent accidents at unmanned level crossings are as under :

- (i) Speed breakers/rumble strips have been provided on the road approaches to unmanned level crossings so that the road vehicles may reduce their speed.
- (ii) Whistle boards are provided alongside the rail track on approach of level crossings to advise the train driver to whistle to warn the road users about the approaching train.
- (iii) To educate the road drivers about safety at unmanned level crossings, publicity campaign is launched through various media like quickies on TV, cinema slides, talks on radio and advertisements in newspapers and periodicals.
- (iv) State Governments are requested from time to time to exercise strict checks while issuing driving licenses, especially to drivers of trucks, buses and other heavy traffic vehicles.

[English]

Strike by Pilots

*87. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pilots of Indian Airlines had gone on mass sick leave from January 23 to 27, 1997;